

Education Policy Transition Committee

Tuesday, December 18, 2018
10 a.m.



Education Policy Transition Committee

Co-Chairs: **Yvette Melendez** and **Fran Rabinowitz**

Committee Members:

Dr. Paul Broadie, President, Gateway and Housatonic Community Colleges

Robert Cotto, Director of Urban Educational Initiatives, Trinity College

Rev. Lindsey Curtis, Pastor, Grace Baptist Church

Merrill Gay, Executive Director, Early Childhood Alliance

Rabbi Doniel Ginsburg, President, Association of Institutions of Jewish Studies

Jan Hochadel, President, AFT-CT

Paul Diego Holzer, Executive Director, Achieve Hartford

Jeff Leake, President, CT Education Association (CEA)

Dr. Estela Lopez, Former Provost CT State University System, Vice Chair State Board of Education

Shannon Marimón, Executive Director, CT Council for Education Reform

Steve Mandel, Founder, Lone Pine Capital

Michael Pohl, History Teacher, Manchester Public Schools, and Democratic Town Chair

Steve Simmons, Chairman, Simmons/Patriot Media & Communications; Board Chair, CT Council for Education Reform

Troy Williams, Managing Director, University Ventures

Dr. Nadia Ward, Assoc. Professor of Psychiatry, Director of Urban Education, Prevention & Policy Research, Yale University

Julia Winer, Director of Public Policy, CREC



Guiding Principles

- Alignment with Governor-Elect Lamont's agenda on workforce development and economic growth:

*"A revitalized business climate will ensure Connecticut has the resources necessary to support our priorities as a state: **investing in excellent public schools**, caring for our most vulnerable communities, and sharing broadly in economic prosperity."*

--p.2, Lamont Policy Document

- Focus on equity and opportunity for **all** students:

"I believe that access to high-quality education must be a right for all, not just the privileged few."

--p.24, Lamont Policy Document



Ed Policy Subcommittee Structure

- **Early Childhood Care and Education:** This subcommittee focused on access to quality early care and pre-K for each and every child who needs it, beginning at birth. The goal is to look at the quality of care/education through a universal system, inclusive of objective outcome indicators.
- **Achievement/Opportunity Gap:** This subcommittee focused on creating streamlined systems and supports to ensure equitable access to a high-quality educational experience for all students. This includes consideration of social-emotional learning, robust curricula with a focus on STEM, wraparound services that consider all needs of a child and their families, a bold re-thinking of school designs, and a comprehensive talent management strategy related to the educator workforce with a focus on increasing diversity and addressing shortage areas.



Ed Policy Subcommittee Structure (cont.)

- **Affordable Higher Education and Career Pathways:** This subcommittee looked at promoting innovative approaches to making post-secondary education opportunities more accessible and affordable to all high school graduates and creating more explicit high school pathways to careers that are most in-demand in the CT marketplace.
- **School Funding and Regionalization:** This subcommittee focused on identifying opportunities to modify and fully fund the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula so that our school districts have the necessary resources to educate our children. They also looked at creating incentives that promote cost-efficiencies through regional collaboration.



Policy Recommendations: Early Childhood Care & Education

Short-term (First 100 Days)

- Set aggressive timeline for launch of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

Long-term

- Raise Care4Kid payment rates and expand access to allow parents to enroll in training.
- Conduct an audit on early childhood care access and current levels of unmet demand.



Policy Recommendations: Achievement/Opportunity Gap

Short-term (First 100 Days)

- Reexamine purpose/role of CSDE/SBE and relationship with RESCs and other partners.
- Develop a statewide STEM education action plan that consolidates previous reports.
- Create a Math Leadership Institute for school principals.
- Launch CT's "Teach.org" public relations campaign for the teaching profession.
- Propose changes to out-of-state reciprocity for educator certification.



Policy Recommendations: Achievement/Opportunity Gap (cont.)

Long-term

- Launch development of statewide curricula, inclusive of the technical school system.
- Require that computer science be taught in every high school.
- Improve state's longitudinal data system to be more timely and user-friendly.
- Demand greater transparency and accountability for Alliance Districts, Commissioner's Network, charter and magnet school progress/results; codify best practices.
- Expand educator preparation pathways and leadership development programs.
- Shift oversight of Minority Teacher Incentive Program from OHE to the CSDE.



Policy Recommendations: Higher Education & Career Pathways

Short-term (First 100 Days)

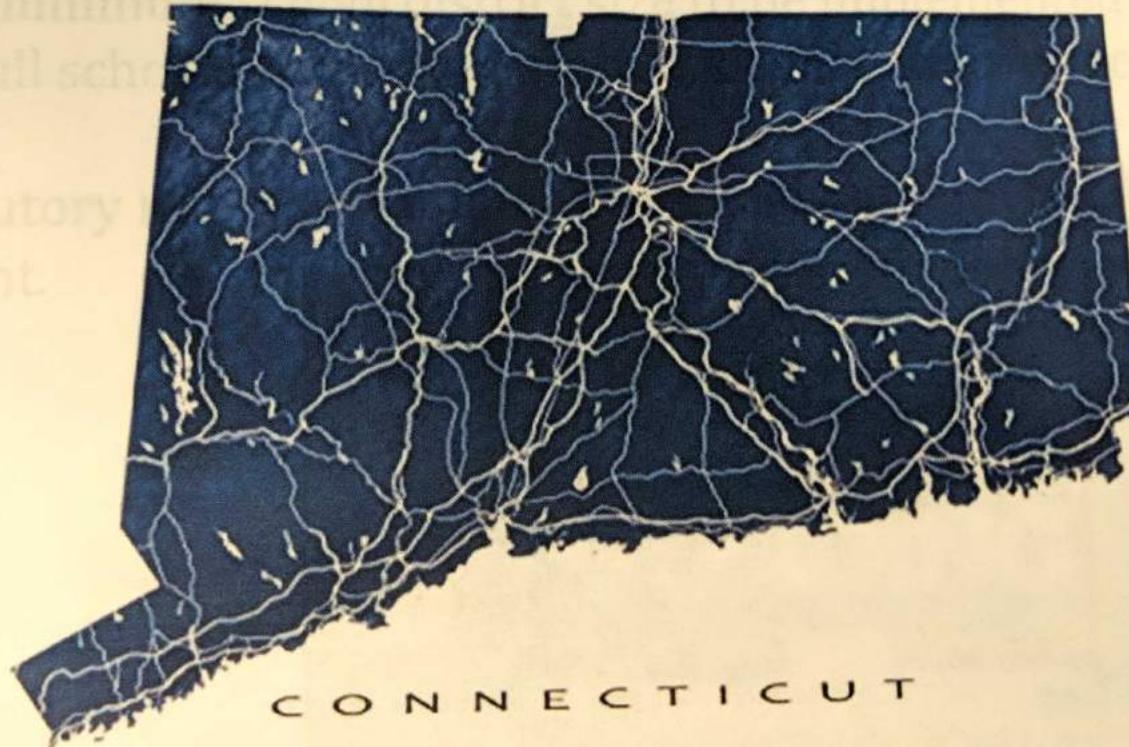
- Establish a Governor's Industry, Higher Education, & Career Pathways Council.
- Create FAFSA data MOU between OHE and CSDE; long-term merge of OHE with CSDE.
- Launch a low-cost loan and scholarship program through [CHESLA](#) with focus on STEM.
- Target external funding sources to develop career pathways and training programs.
- Implement a marketing plan for the CT higher education system.



Policy Recommendations: School Funding & Regionalization

Short-term (First 100 Days)

- Promote shared services models for school districts.
- Move to a single, statewide, collaborative contract for an electronic IEP system.



Policy Recommendations: School Funding & Regionalization (cont.)

Long-term

- Commit to funding ECS at the statutory level for the biennium.
- Implement a new, comprehensive school funding formula - efforts are underway at CAPSS to develop a proposal for state education funding in 21 areas including ECS.
- Create a dedicated state office in OPM focused on securing grant dollars.
- Establish a minimum school district size to be implemented over time.
- Require small school districts to internally consolidate or regionally share services.
- Reduce statutory red tape, redundancies, and barriers to educational improvement.



Cross-Cutting Proposal

Governor's Industry, Higher Education, & Career Pathways Council --

Composition: Senior representatives from the private sector; PK-12 schools/districts; post-secondary educational institutions; nonprofits; and labor.

Subcommittee Structure: including but not limited to, Financial Services/Insurance, Healthcare, Technology, Agrisciences, and Educational Models/Non-profit Partnerships.

- Identify the common workforce needs and skills gaps of current employees
- Develop continuous, sustainable pipelines for the workforce; and
- Conduct a comparative analysis of best practices within CT and in other states and make this information publicly available through a centralized website.

Outcomes of the Board would be to:

- Develop industry-relevant curricula inclusive of work-based learning (e.g. internships, apprenticeships, etc.)
- Build partnerships with community colleges and four-year colleges to expand and adjust relevant offerings based on need/demand;
- Study and identify existing high school/post-secondary models that are most effective in order to scale them; and
- Coordinate and align funding opportunities.



Questions?

